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LESSONS

ON

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND FAITH.

o Boston, Mass. — First church — Sunday school

BIBLE LESSONS

ON

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND FAITH.

PREPARED FOR THE

Sunday School of First Church.

BOSTON:
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PREFACE.

THIS little Manual is a reprint of QUESTIONS FOR THE MONTH, which have been prepared by Teachers of the First Church Sunday School during the last four years, to be learned in the course of each four weeks by all except the youngest scholars, and recited to the Pastor on the first Sunday of the month, the school answering in concert, or a separate examination being made of one and another child. A chief object has been to provide questions which could be answered in the very language of the Bible, for the reason that it is so desirable on every account to make the sentences of Prophets, Apostles, Evangelists, and of our Lord Himself, familiar to the young as household words, their life-long possession, help, and

joy. The little book has been growing month by month, and during all the months of its growth it has been bearing fruit. The lessons have been made more attractive and useful by the addition of a few stanzas from appropriate hymns. The number of these has been increased in this book, so that the same lesson may be learned with different hymns. Wishing to use the questions again, we have gathered up the scattered leaves, and put them together into a more abiding form. They are at the service of any who may desire to make trial of them, and we hope that they will do for other schools what they have done for ours.

BOSTON, Jan. 18, 1871.

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Part I.

CHRISTIAN LIFE.

LESSON I.

OBEDIENCE TO GOD.

1. In what words are we called upon to begin in our childhood to serve the Lord?

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." Ecclesiastes xii. 1.

2. What promise is given to those who are in earnest in seeking Him?

"Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Jeremiah xxix. 13.

3. What does Christ teach us is the first thing to be sought? St. Matthew vi. 33.

4. One only care my soul should know:
Father, all Thy commands to do.
Ah! deep engrave it on my breast
That I in Thee alone am blest.

5. What blessing does He pronounce on those who care before all things for this righteousness? St. Matthew v. 6.

6. Thrice happy souls, who, born from heaven,
While yet they sojourn here,
Do all their days with God begin,
And spend them in His fear.

7. How does our Lord describe the difference between those who obey and those who neglect His commandments? St. Matthew vii. 24–27.

8. Oh that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep His statutes still!
Oh that my God would grant me grace
To know and do His will!

Order my footsteps by Thy word,
And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
But keep my conscience clear.

Make me to walk in Thy commands,—
'Tis a delightful road,—
Nor let my head, or heart, or hands
Offend against my God.

Thine for ever! God of love,
Hear us from Thy throne above:
Thine for ever may we be,
Here and in eternity!

Thine for ever! Lord of life,
Shield us through our earthly strife:
Thou, the Life, the Truth, the Way,
Guide us to the realms of day.

Thine for ever! Oh how blest
They who find in Thee their rest!
Saviour, Guardian, heavenly Friend,
Oh, defend us to the end!

Thine for ever! Saviour, keep
These Thy frail and trembling sheep:
Safe alone beneath Thy care,
Let us all Thy goodness share.

Thine for ever! Thou our Guide,
All our wants by Thee supplied,
All our sins by Thee forgiven,
Led by Thee from earth to heaven!

LESSON II.

PURITY OF HEART AND LIFE.

1. What precept should we remember when our companions ask us to do wrong?

"If sinners entice thee, consent thou not." Proverbs 10.

2. How are we taught to shun the company of those who love evil?

"Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away." Proverbs iv. 14, 15.

3. What ought we to hate above all things?

"Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." Romans xii. 9.

4. Will God hear our prayers, if we love what is wrong? Psalm lxvi. 18.

5. What must be the mark of all who would be followers of Christ?

"Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." 2 Timothy ii. 19.

6. Do no sinful action,
Speak no angry word:
Ye belong to Jesus,
Children of the Lord.

Christ is kind and gentle,
Christ is pure and true;
And His little children
Must be holy too.

7. What is the end of sin? Romans vi. 23.

8. What blessing does our Lord pronounce on those who keep themselves unspotted from the world? St. Matthew v 8.

9. I want a principle within
Of jealous, godly fear;
A sensibility of sin,
A pain to find it near.

Quick as the apple of an eye,
O God! my conscience make;
Awake my soul, when sin is nigh,
And keep it still awake.

LESSON III.

RESISTING TEMPTATION.

1. What is our only safe course in the midst of the temptations which constantly beset us?

"Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil." Proverbs iv. 27.

2. What victory is promised us if we are faithful in resisting evil?

"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you." St. James iv. 7, 8.

3. What should be our answer to those who would tempt us to sin? Psalm cxix. 115.

4. What is our only defence in time of temptation?

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day." Ephesians vi. 13.

5. Man's wisdom is to seek
His strength in God alone;
And e'en an angel would be weak,
Who trusted in his own.

6. How can we gain the strength that we need?

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." St. Matthew xxvi. 41.

7. What is the prayer that Christ teaches us?

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." St. Matthew vi. 13.

8. What reward is promised to those who have striven faithfully to resist sin? St. James i. 12.

9 Awake, my soul! lift up thine eyes;
See where thy foes against thee rise,
In long array, a numerous host.
Awake, my soul, or thou art lost!

Thou tread'st upon enchanted ground;
Perils and snares beset thee round:
Beware of all, guard every part,
But most the traitor in thy heart.

Come, then, my soul! now learn to wield
The weight of thine immortal shield;
Put on the armor from above,
Of heavenly truth and heavenly love.

LESSON IV.

STEADFASTNESS.

1. How does St. Paul encourage us to persevere in doing right? Galatians vi. 9.

2. Go, labor on: your hands are weak;
Your knees are faint, your soul cast down;
Yet falter not: the prize you seek
Is near, — a kingdom and a crown.

3. What description is given in the parable of the sower of those who have not strength to hold to their good resolutions? St. Luke viii. 13.

4. What reproof does Christ give to those who are not in earnest in following Him? St. Luke ix. 62.

5. Repeat St. Paul's stirring exhortation to the disciples at Corinth. 1 Corinthians xvi. 13.

6. How is the Christian course described in the letter to the Hebrews?

"Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith." Hebrews xii. 1, 2.

7. What assurance of help is given to those who look to God for strength?

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah xl. 31.

8. What is the promise to those who continue faithful to the end?

"He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." St. Matthew xxiv. 13.

9. Awake, our souls! away, our fears!
Let every trembling thought be gone;
Awake, and run the heavenly race,
And put a cheerful courage on.

True, 'tis a strait and thorny road,
And mortal spirits tire and faint;
But they forget the mighty God
That feeds the strength of every saint.

LESSON V.

FAITHFULNESS.

1. How are we taught to be earnest in all that we do?

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." Ecclesiastes ix. 10.

2. Unto whom should all our work be done? Colossians iii. 23.

3. Teach me, my God and King,
In all things Thee to see;
And what I do in any thing
To do it as for Thee!

4. In what spirit should all our actions be performed? Ephesians vi. 6.

5. Since Christ died for us, how ought we to live?

"He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again." 2 Corinthians v. 15.

6. Is there any thing so small that we should not try to please God in doing it? 1 Corinthians x. 31.

7. How does Christ declare that none can be trusted in great things who have proved unfaithful in small ones? St. Luke xvi. 10.

8. What welcome shall we receive from our Lord, if we have been faithful in our work? St. Matthew xxv. 21.

9. A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify;
A never-dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky;
To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfil:
Oh, may it all my powers engage
To do my Master's will!

Arm me with jealous care,
As in Thy sight to live;
And oh! Thy servant, Lord, prepare
The strict account to give.
Help me to watch and pray,
And on Thyself rely;
Assured, if I my trust betray,
I shall forsaken die.

LESSON VI.

ENDURE HARDNESS.

1. Can we be disciples of Christ unless we are willing to deny ourselves? St. Luke ix. 23.

2. Must Jesus bear the cross alone,
And all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for every one;
And there's a cross for me.

3. What does our Lord say we must be ready to give up for His sake? St. Luke ix. 24.

4. In what solemn words does He teach us that doing wrong can never bring us any real good? St. Mark viii. 36, 37.

5. What must the soldiers of Christ be prepared to endure? 2 Timothy ii. 3.

6. What battle have we to fight?

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life." 1 Timothy vi. 12.

7. How did the apostles rejoice to suffer for their Lord? Acts v. 41.

8. What is the promise to those who are faithful?

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Rev. ii. 10.

9. Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follower of the Lamb?
And shall I fear to own His cause,
Or blush to speak His name?

Must I be carried to the skies
On flowery beds of ease,
While others fought to win the prize,
Or sailed through stormy seas?

Sure, I must fight, if I would reign
Increase my courage, Lord:
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,
Supported by Thy word.

LESSON VII.

TRUTH.

1. How does the Lord look upon falsehood and deceit?

"Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are His delight." Proverbs xii. 22.

2. Does not He require of us to be true in our hearts, as well as in our words?

"Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts." Psalm li. 6.

3. With what feeling should we therefore regard all untruthfulness? Psalm cxix. 163.

4. How should we pray to be kept from this sin? Psalm cxli. 3.

5. What was the prayer of the Psalmist, and what should be ours also?

"Teach me Thy way, O Lord; I will walk in Thy truth." Psalm lxxvi. 11.

6. No sinful word, nor deed of wrong,
Nor thoughts that idly rove,
But simple truth be on our tongue,
And in our hearts be love.

7. What is the teaching of Paul on this subject in his letter to the Ephesians?

"Wherefore, putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor." Ephesians iv. 25.

8. What is the only kind of service which can please God?

"Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth." Joshua xxiv. 14.

9. Describe the upright man who is approved and loved by God. Psalm xv. 1, 2.

10. Praise the Lord! and may His blessing
Guide us in the way of truth;
Keep our feet from paths of error,
Make us holy in our youth.

LESSON VIII.

JUDGE NOT.

1. In what words does our Lord warn us against rash judgments of others? St. Matthew vii. 1, 2.

2. Ought we not to be more concerned in correcting our own faults than in watching for those of our neighbors? St. Matthew vii. 3–5.

8. Judge not hastily of others,
But thine own transgressions mind;
Nor be lynx-eyed to thy brother's,
To thine own offences blind;
God alone
Discerns thine own,
And the hearts of all mankind.

4. What precept against this sin is given us in the Epistle of James?

"Speak not evil one of another, brethren." James iv. 11.

5. Can we look deep enough into the hearts of others to enable us to judge them truly?

"Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." 1 Samuel xvi. 7.

6. How shall we be judged ourselves, if we are harsh towards others?

"He shall have judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mercy." James ii. 13.

7. Before whose judgment-seat will every soul be called to give an account?

"We shall all stand before the judgment-seat of Christ. . . . So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Romans xiv. 10, 12.

8. Thou judge of quick and dead,
Before whose bar severe,
With holy joy or guilty dread,
We all shall soon appear!

Our waiting souls prepare
For that tremendous day,
And fill us now with watchful care,
And stir us up to pray

LESSON IX.

CONTENTMENT.

1. Repeat St. Paul's admonition against repining. Philippians ii. 14.

2. When thou hast truly thanked thy God
For every blessing sent,
But little time will then remain
For murmur or lament.

3. In what spirit are we to bear our disappointments?

"Whatsoever is brought upon thee take cheerfully." Ecclesiasticus ii. 4.

4. What great lesson had Paul himself learned from his trials?

"I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Philippians iv. 11.

5. Shall we ever be discontented if we remember God's loving care of us?

"Be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Hebrews xiii. 5.

6. What should we be ready to say when trouble comes upon us?

"It is the Lord: let Him do what seemeth Him good." 1 Samuel iii. 18.

7. Ought not God's children always to be full of joy?

"Let all those that seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee." Psalm xl. 16.

8. What assurance has the Christian that God sends every thing to work for his good?

"We know that all things work together for good to them that love God." Romans viii. 28.

9. Some murmur when their sky is clear,
And wholly bright to view,
If one small speck of dark appear
In their great heaven of blue.
And some with thankful love are filled,
If but one streak of light,
One ray of God's good mercy, gild
The darkness of their night.

Oh, how kindly hast Thou led me,
Heavenly Father, day by day!
Found my dwelling, clothed and fed me,
Furnished friends to cheer my way!
Didst Thou bless me, didst Thou chasten,
With Thy smile, or with Thy rod,
'Twas that still my step might hasten
Homeward, heavenward to my God!

Oh, how slowly have I often
Followed where Thy hand would draw!
How Thy kindness failed to soften!
How Thy chastening failed to awe!

Make me for Thy rest more ready,
As Thy path is longer trod;
Keep me in Thy friendship steady,
Till Thou call me home, my God!

LESSON X.

UNWORLDLINESS.

1. What does our Lord command us to seek first?

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." St. Matthew vi. 33.

2. What blessing does He pronounce upon those who earnestly desire this righteousness? St. Matthew v. 6.

3. Can we possess it unless we give ourselves wholly to the service of God? St. Matthew vi. 24.

4 How is the same lesson taught us by the Apostle John? 1 John ii. 15.

5. Renouncing every worldly thing,
And safe beneath Thy sheltering wing,
My sweetest thought henceforth shall be,
That all I want I find in Thee.

6. If by committing any sin we could obtain great earthly treasures, would they be to us a real gain? St. Matthew xvi. 26.

7. Do outward possessions add any thing to our true life?

"A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." St. Luke xii. 15.

8. Where can we lay up the only lasting treasure? St. Matthew vi. 19–21.

9. How does Christ teach us that nothing is of any value except the Christian life? St. Luke x. 41–42

10. Engage this roving, treacherous heart
To fix on Mary's better part,
To scorn the trifles of a day
For joys that none can take away.

Then let the wildest storms arise,
Let tempests mingle earth and skies,
No fatal shipwreck shall I fear,
But all my treasures with me bear.

If Thou, my Saviour, still be nigh,
Cheerful I live, and joyful die;
Secure, when mortal comforts flee,
To find ten thousand worlds in Thee.

LESSON XI.

FORGIVENESS.

1. In what words are we forbidden to return evil to those who have injured us?

"Recompense to no man evil for evil." Romans xii. 17.

2. Can we conquer evil except by meeting it with love? Romans xii. 21.

8. How does our Saviour require us to treat those who have done us wrong? St. Matthew v. 44, 45.

4. Should our enemies asperse us,
Our dear Lord, who loves us so,
Bids us bless e'en them who curse us,
And to love our greatest foe.

5. How does our Saviour's life teach us by its example this same lesson?

"Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps . . . Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously." 1 Peter ii. 21, 23.

6. Jesus suffered patiently
Pain and cruel chiding:
Meek and patient we must be,
In His love abiding;
Pride and anger would be shame
For the child who bears His name.

7. Are we trying to obey Christ if we only love those who love us? St. Luke vi. 32, 33.

8. How did Stephen show his love for his enemies who were putting him to a cruel death? Acts vii. 60

9. In vain the name of Christ we bear,
Unless the love of Christ we share,—
That love which bids the dying live,
And whispers on the cross, "Forgive."

10. In what words does our Lord teach us to aim at nothing less than perfect love? St. Matthew v. 48.

LESSON XII.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

1. What is our duty as Christians to one another?
"By love serve one another." Galatians v. 13.

2. Does not Christ's law require us to help all who are in trouble? Galatians vi. 2.

3. Help us to help each other, Lord,
Each other's cross to bear;
Let each his friendly aid afford,
And feel his brother's care.

4. How does Christ teach us that true greatness comes only from serving others?
"Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant." St. Matthew xx. 26, 27.

5. What was our Lord's own life upon earth?
"The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." St. Matthew xx. 28.
"I am among you as he that serveth." St. Luke xxii. 27.

6. In what special act does He give an example of lowly service?
In washing the disciples' feet. "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet." St. John xiii. 14.

7. Go, labor on: spend and be spent,
Thy joy to do the Father's will.
It is the way the Master went.
Should not the servant tread it still?

8. How does the Apostle Paul declare his readiness to follow in his Master's steps?

"I will very gladly spend and be spent for you." 2 Corinthians xii. 15.

9. What should be our spirit in serving others? Ephesians vi. 7.

10. "Bear ye each other's burdens,"—
Whoever hears that word
Hath a commandment spoken straight
Unto him by the Lord.

Whatever weight our brother has,
Of sorrow or of care,
That is his burden, — that it is
Our love should help him bear

Perhaps by active service,
Perhaps by kindly thought,
Perhaps by simply loving,
Our purpose may be wrought.

Begin with little labors,
Fit for your little strength;
So grow in grace until ye hear
Your Lord's "Well done!" at length.

LESSON XIII.

LOVE.

1. What new commandment does Christ give us? St. John xiii. 34.

2. 'Tis a gentle voice we hear
Speaking softly in our ear:
Jesus whispers from above,
"Little children, walk in love."

3. Are not all the commandments of the Old Testament included in this new one? Romans xiii. 10.

4. Can we have our hearts in heaven,
And yet earthly-minded live?
Can we who have been forgiven
Not forget, and not forgive?
Can we hate an erring brother,
Only love when we are loved,
And not bear with one another
By Christ's Holy Spirit moved?

5. Is our love of any value unless we show it in our actions? 1 John iii. 18.

6. In what words does St. John teach us that without love we can know nothing of God?

"Every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is love." 1 John iv. 7, 8.

7. Should not the thought of God's love to us move us to love one another? 1 John iv. 11.

8. He loveth us: that is enough
To fill our hearts with gladness;
He loveth us: that is enough
To chase away all sadness.
Lord, grant that we
May also Thee
Love with a love unceasing,
Yea, every day increasing.

9. What does Christ say shall be the mark of His disciples? St. John xiii. 35.

10. In what words does our Lord teach us how much He loves those who do His Father's will? St. Matthew xii. 49, 50.

LESSON XIV.

GOD IS EVERYWHERE.

1. What thought should always be present to our minds?

"Thou, God, seest me." Genesis xvi. 13.

2. How is the same thought expressed by the Psalmist? Psalm xxxiii. 13.

3. Can we ever be where God does not see us?

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Proverbs xv. 3.

4. Can we say any thing which God does not hear? Psalm cxxxix. 4.

5. Does He not also know every thing that we think and feel?

"Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." 1 Samuel xvi. 7.

6. My thoughts, before they are my own,
Are to my God distinctly known;
He knows the words I mean to speak,
Ere from my opening lips they break.

Within Thy circling power I stand;
On every side I find Thy hand:
Awake, asleep, at home, abroad,
I am surrounded still with God.

7. Can our most secret actions always remain concealed?

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Ecclesiastes xii. 14.

8. In what words does Jesus give us the assurance of our Father's watchful love and care? St. Matthew x. 29–31.

9. Oh, may I try to please Him still,
To know and love and do His will!
Then will it joy and gladness be,
That God's own eye is fixed on me.

LESSON XV.

"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD."

1. To what does the prophet Isaiah compare God's care for His children?

"He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom." Isaiah xl. 11.

2. In which Psalm is God spoken of as a Shepherd? The twenty-third.

3. Repeat the first four verses of this Psalm.

4. My Shepherd is the living Lord;
I therefore nothing need:
In pastures fair, with waters calm,
He sets me forth to feed.

5. How does the Psalmist describe God's fatherly care for us? Psalm ciii. 13.

6. In what words does our Lord Jesus Christ speak of Himself as a Shepherd? St. John x. 11, 14.

7. How is the Shepherd's call to the sheep described?

"The sheep hear His voice; and He calleth His own sheep by name, and leadeth them out." St. John x. 3.

8. Jesus is our Shepherd, wiping every tear;
Folded in His bosom, what have we to fear?
Only let us follow whither He doth lead,
To the thirsty desert or the dewy mead.

Jesus is our Shepherd: well we know His voice;
How the gentlest whisper makes our heart rejoice!
Even when it chideth, tender in its tone.
None but He shall guide us: we are His alone.

Jesus is our Shepherd: with His goodness now
And His tender mercy He doth us endow!
Let us sing His praises with a gladsome heart,
Till in heaven we meet Him, never more to part.

The Lord is my Shepherd, no want shall I know;
I feed in green pastures, safe folded I rest:
He leadeth my soul where the still waters flow,
Restores me when wandering, redeems when oppressed.

Through the valley and shadow of death though I stray,
Since Thou art my guardian, no evil I fear:
Thy rod shall defend me, Thy staff be my stay;
No harm can befall with my Comforter near.

In the midst of affliction my table is spread;
With blessings unmeasured my cup runneth o'er;
With perfume and oil Thou anointest my head:
Oh! what shall I ask of Thy providence more?

Let goodness and mercy, my bountiful God,
Still follow my steps till I meet Thee above:
I seek, by the path which my forefathers trod
Through the land of their sojourn, Thy kingdom of love

LESSON XVI.

"I WILL NOT FEAR, FOR GOD IS NEAR."

1. Who is our help in all time of trouble? Psalm xlvi. 1, 2.

2. Whose loving arms are always around us?

"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." Deut. xxxiii. 27.

3. See the Lord, thy Helper, stand
Omnipotently near;
Lo! He holds thee by the hand,
And banishes thy fear;
Shadows with His wings thy head;
Guards from all impending harms;
Round thee and beneath are spread
The everlasting arms.

4. What thought should always keep us from fear? Psalm cxxi. 7.

5. What promise does the Lord give that He will be ever near to keep us from harm?

"For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." Isaiah xli. 13.

6. Should not this promise make us feel happy when we lie down at night?

"When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet." Proverbs iii. 24.

7. Need we have any fear, if we are trying to do right? 1 Peter iii. 13.

8. What beautiful promise is given to those who love God?

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee." Isaiah xxvi. 3.

9. They who on the Lord rely
Safely dwell, though danger's nigh
Lo! His sheltering wings are spread
O'er each faithful servant's head.

When they wake or when they sleep,
Angel-guards their vigils keep;
Death and danger may be near,
Faith and love can never fear.

Unshaken as the sacred hill,
And firm as mountains be,
Firm as a rock, the soul shall rest
That leans, O Lord! on Thee.

Not walls nor hills could guard so well
Old Salem's happy ground,
As those eternal arms of love
That every saint surround.

Deal gently, Lord, with souls sincere;
And lead them safely on
To the bright gates of Paradise,
Where Christ their Lord is gone.

LESSON XVII.

TRUST.

1. Are we able to direct our own way through life? "It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Jeremiah x. 23.

2. To whom, then, must we commit our way? Psalm xxxvii. 5.

3. I know not the way I am going,
But well do I know my guide:
With a childlike trust I give my hand
To the mighty Friend by my side.
The only thing that I say to Him,
As He takes it, is, "Hold it fast;
Suffer me not to lose my way,
And bring me home at last."

4. Can all our watchfulness protect us from harm? "Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." Psalm cxxvii. 1.

5. Under whose loving care may we rest in peace? Psalm iv. 8.

6. As a little child relies
On a care beyond his own,
Knows beneath his Father's eyes
He is never left alone;
So would I with Thee abide,
Thou my Father, Guard, and Guide.

7. In what words does Christ teach that nothing happens to us without our Father's will? St. Matthew x. 29–31.

8. What lesson does He teach us from the ravens? St. Luke xii. 24.

9. What assurance does Paul give to those that love God?

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God." Romans viii. 28.

10. Life can bring with it nothing,
But He will bear us through;
Who gives the lilies clothing
Will clothe His people too.

Beneath the spreading heavens
No creature but is fed;
And He who feeds the ravens
Will give His children bread.

O Lord, how happy should we be,
If we could cast our care on Thee!
If we from self could rest,
And feel at heart that One above,
In perfect wisdom, perfect love,
Is working for the best!

Could we but kneel and cast our care
Upon our God in humble prayer,
With strengthened spirits rise;
Sure that our Father, who is nigh
To hear the ravens when they cry,
Will hear our earnest cries!

Oh, may these trustless hearts of ours
The lesson learn from birds and flowers,
And learn from self to cease!
Leave all things to our Father's will,
And, on His mercy leaning still,
Find in each trial peace.

LESSON XVIII.

PRAYER.

1. What should be our first thought and act every morning? Psalm v. 3.

2. Come at the morning hour,
Come let us kneel and pray;
Prayer is the Christian pilgrim's staff,
To walk with God all day.

3. What do we need besides prayer, if we would be kept from doing wrong during the day?

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." St. Matthew xxvi. 41.

4. Give me on Thee to call,
Always to watch and pray,
Lest I into temptation fall,
And cast my shield away.
For each assault prepared
And ready may I be;
For ever standing on my guard,
And looking up to Thee.

5. Is it only in the morning that we should pray to God and thank Him for His goodness? Psalm xxxiv. 1.

6. What assurance have we from Christ that God hears and answers our prayers? St. Matthew vii. 7, 8.

7. Can we expect God to listen to our prayers unless we are trying to do His will? 1 Peter iii. 12.

8. Give an instance by which we may learn from our Lord's example our need of prayer. St. Luke vi. 12.

9. Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air;
His watchword at the gates of death;
He enters heaven with prayer.
O Thou by whom we come to God,
The Life, the Truth, the Way,
The path of prayer Thyself hast trod!
Lord, teach us how to pray.

Ere the morning's busy ray
Call you to your work away;
Ere the silent evening close
Your wearied eyes in sweet repose, —
To lift your heart and voice in prayer
Be your first and latest care.

He, to whom the prayer is due,
From heaven His throne shall smile on you,
Angels sent by Him shall tend
Your daily labor to befriend,
And their nightly vigils keep
To guard you in the hour of sleep.

LESSON XIX.

PRAYER.

1. How are we taught to lay all our desires and feelings before our heavenly Father?

"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians v. 17.

"In every thing, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God." Philippians iv. 6.

2. How does Christ warn us against merely repeating *words* of prayer? St. Matthew vi. 7.

3. What was the prayer of the publican, which Christ commended?

"God be merciful to me a sinner." St. Luke xviii. 13.

4. What beside humility does He enjoin upon us, if we would pray aright? St. Mark xi. 25.

5. For whom must we be ready to pray? St. Matthew v. 44.

6. In what spirit should we always pray?

"Thy will be done." St. Matthew vi. 10.

7. One prayer I have, — all prayers in one, —
When I am wholly Thine:
Thy will, my God, Thy will be done;
And let that will be mine.

8. How does the Apostle John teach us that God answers the prayers of those who obey Him? 1 John iii. 22.

9. To prayer! to prayer! for the morning breaks,
And Earth in her Maker's smile awakes:
His light is on all below and above, —
The light of gladness and life and love.
Oh, then, on the breath of this early air,
Send upward the incense of grateful prayer!

To prayer! for the glorious sun is gone,
And the gathering darkness of night comes on;
Like a curtain, from God's kind hand it flows,
To shade the couch where His children repose.
Then kneel, while the watching stars are bright,
And give your last thoughts to the Guardian of night.

LESSON XX.

REVERENCE.

1. What words of the Prophet express the reverence which we should feel on entering the house of God?

"The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him." Habakkuk ii. 20.

2. By what name does the Lord, through His prophet Isaiah, direct that His house shall be called?

"Mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people." Isaiah lvi. 7

3. What feeling of affection do God's children have for the place where they meet to worship Him? Psalm xxvi. 8.

4. With what joy do they come together for prayer and praise?

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm cxxii. 1.

"I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holy-day." Psalm xlii. 4.

5. Lord of the worlds above,
How pleasant and how fair
The dwellings of Thy love,
Thine earthly temples, are!
To Thine abode
My heart aspires,
With warm desires
To see my God.

O happy souls that pray
Where God appoints to hear!
O happy men that pay
Their constant service there!
They praise Thee still;
And happy they
That love the way
To Zion's hill.

6. In what words does the Psalmist call upon us to praise and worship the Lord? Psalm xcv. 1–6 and first half of seventh verse.

7. What does our Saviour teach us is the only worship acceptable to God? St. John iv. 24.

Part II.

CHRISTIAN FAITH.

LESSON XXI.

THE NATURE OF GOD, AND OUR RELATIONS TO HIM.

1. What does Jesus Christ teach us of the nature of God? St. John iv. 24.

2. How did the Apostle Paul declare this same truth when he spoke to the people of Athens? Acts xvii. 24, 25.

3. What did he also say to them of God's nearness to His children?

"In Him we live and move and have our being." Acts xvii. 28.

4. In what words are we taught that one God has made and cares for all men?

"There is one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Ephesians iv. 6.

5. O God! we praise Thee, and confess
That Thou the only Lord
And everlasting Father art,
By all the earth adored.

The holy Church throughout the world,
O Lord! confesses Thee;
That Thou eternal Father art,
Of boundless majesty.

6. By what name does Christ teach us to pray to God?

"When ye pray, say Our Father." St Luke xi. 2.

7. How does He show us that God's love and goodness extend over all, and that only by feeling the same love can we be His children?

"That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." St. Matthew v. 45, 48.

8. What name does God in His love give to us, if we obey Him?

"Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." 1 John iii. 1.

9. How alone can we be united to Him whose name is love?

"God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." 1 John iv. 16.

10. God is love: His mercy brightens
All the path in which we move;
Bliss He wakes, and woe He lightens:
God is wisdom, God is love.

LESSON XXII.

THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD.

1. How is God's care of all His creatures spoken of in David's Psalm of Praise? Psalm cxlv. 9.

2. How does the Psalmist remind us of God's watchfulness over His children? Psalm cxxi. 5, 8.

3. God shall bless thy going out,
Shall bless thy coming in;
Kindly compass thee about,
Till thou art saved from sin.
Lean upon thy Father's breast;
He thy quiet spirit keeps:
Rest in Him, securely rest;
Thy Guardian never sleeps.

4. What words express our confidence that the Lord is always upholding us?

"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." Deut. xxxiii. 27.

5. What promise should give us courage in all time of danger and trial?

"He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Heb. xiii. 5, 6.

6. How does Christ teach us, from our Heavenly Father's care for birds and flowers, that He will much more care for us? St. Matthew vi. 26–30.

7. How does He encourage us to trust entirely in our Father's love? St. Matthew x. 29–31.

8.

The child leans on its parent's breast,
Leaves there its cares, and is at rest;
The bird sits singing by his nest,
And tells aloud
His trust in God, and so is blest
'Neath every cloud.

He has no store, he sows no seed;
Yet sings aloud, and doth not heed;
By flowing stream, or grassy mead,
He sings to shame
Men, who forget, in ear of need,
A Father's name.

The heart that trusts for ever sings,
And feels as light as it had wings;
A well of peace within it springs:
Come good, or ill,
Whate'er to-day, to-morrow, brings,
It is His will!

Give to the winds thy fears;
Hope, and be undismayed:
God hears thy sighs, and counts thy tears;
God shall lift up thy head.

Through waves, through clouds and storms,
He gently clears thy way:
Wait thou His time; so shall the night
Soon end in joyous day.

He everywhere hath rule,
And all things serve His might;
His every act pure blessing is,
His path unsullied light.

Thou comprehend'st Him not;
Yet earth and heaven tell:
God sits as Sovereign on the throne,
He ruleth all things well.

LESSON XXIII.

THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST.

1. How was the promise made to Abraham, that from among his descendants should come the Saviour of the world?

"In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." Genesis xxii. 18.

2. How did Isaiah prophesy of the light that Christ's coming should shed over the dark places of the earth?

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." Isaiah ix. 2.

3. Lo! the shadows flee away,
For our Light is come at length;
Brighter than all earthly day,
Source of being, light, and strength!
Whoso on this Light would gaze
Must forsake his evil ways.

4. In what words did John the Baptist bear witness to Christ?

"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!" St. John i. 29.

5. What is declared to be the object of Christ's coming into the world?

"The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." 1 John iv. 14.

6. How was this purpose signified by His name?

"Thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins." St. Matthew i. 21.

7. What words were spoken on the Mount of Transfiguration by the voice from heaven?

"Behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him." St. Matthew xvii. 5.

8. How does Christ declare Himself to be the Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world?

"I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." St. John viii. 12.

9. Hark, the glad sound! the Saviour comes!
The Saviour promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace,
To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

LESSON XXIV.

JESUS THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD.

1. How do the Apostles describe our Lord in His life on earth?

"Holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners." Hebrews vii. 26.

"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth." 1 Peter ii. 22.

"Who went about doing good." Acts x. 38.

2. How does Christ declare Himself to be the giver of true life to the soul? St. John vi. 35.

3. How does He assure us that He will lead to His Father all who follow Him in loving obedience? St. John xiv. 6.

4. Jesus, my Truth, my Way,
My sure, unerring Light,
On Thee my feeble steps I stay,
Which Thou wilt guide aright.

My Wisdom and my Guide,
My Counsellor Thou art;
Oh, never let me leave Thy side,
Or from Thy paths depart!

5. How does He teach us that only in dependence on Him can we live to any real purpose? St. John xv. 5.

6. How does He declare the doing of God's will to be the one end of His life? St. John vi. 38.

7. How do we learn from His words that the doing of God's will meant His life of service and His death of sacrifice?

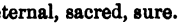
"The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." St. Matthew xx. 28.

"I am the good Shepherd: the good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." St. John x. 11.

8. What invitation does He give us to share His spirit and enter into His rest? St. Matthew xi. 28–30

9. Come, said Jesus' sacred voice,
Come, and make My paths your choice;
I will guide you to your home:
Weary pilgrim, hither come.

Sinner, come; for here is found
Balm that flows for every wound,
Peace that ever shall endure,
Rest eternal, sacred, sure.



How sweetly flowed the gospel's sound
From lips of gentleness and grace,
When listening thousands gathered round,
And joy and reverence filled the place!

From Heaven He came, of Heaven He spoke;
To Heaven He led His followers' way;
Dark clouds of gloomy night He broke,
Unveiling an immortal day.

"Come, wanderers, to my Father's home,
Come, all ye weary ones, and rest!"
Yes, sacred Teacher, we will come,
Obey Thee, love Thee, and be blest.

LESSON XXV.

TRUE DISCIPLESHIP.

1. When we speak of Christ as our Saviour, from what do we understand that He saves us?

"God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities." Acts iii. 26.

2. Are we saved unless we are trying to be like Christ?

"If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." Romans viii. 9.

3. How does our Lord warn us against the common sin of professing to love Him when we are not ready to show our love by obedience? St. Matthew vii. 21.

4. His example, by beholding,
May our lives His image bear;
Him our Lord and Master calling,
His commands may we revere.

Love to God and man displaying,
Walking steadfast in His way,
Joy attend us in believing,
Peace from God through endless day.

5. What must we do if we would be His true followers?

"Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." 2 Timothy ii. 19.

6. What must the Christian be always ready to endure? St. Luke xiv. 27.

7. How does the Apostle Paul describe the purpose of Christ's coming? Titus ii. 14.

8. How does Christ declare that His disciples shall be known? St. John xiii. 35.

9. How does He assure us of His love for those who do His Father's will? St. Matthew xii. 50.

10. Know, my soul, thy full salvation;
Rise o'er sin and fear and care;
Joy to find, in every station,
Something still to do and bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee!
Think what Father's smiles are thine!
Think that Jesus died to win thee!
Child of heaven, canst thou repine?

Feeble, helpless, how shall I
Learn to live and learn to die?
Who, O God, my guide shall be?
Who shall lead Thy child to Thee?

Blessed Father, gracious One,
Thou hast sent Thy holy Son:
He will give the light I need,
He my trembling steps will lead.

Through this world, uncertain, dim,
Let me ever lean on Him;
From His precepts wisdom draw,
Make His life my solemn law.

Thus in deed and thought and word,
Led by Jesus Christ the Lord,
In my weakness, thus shall I
Learn to live, and learn to die:

Learn to live in peace and love,
Like the perfect ones above;
Learn to die without a fear,
Feeling Thee, my Father, near.

LESSON XXVI.

THE COMMANDS AND PROMISES OF CHRIST TO HIS DISCIPLES.

1. What are the two great commandments which our Lord gives to His followers? St. Matthew xxii. 37–40.

2. Can we obey the first commandment of love to God, without loving our neighbor also? 1 John iv. 20, 21.

3. What rule does He give us to guide our conduct towards others? St. Matthew vii. 12.

4. Oh, put it in our inward parts,—
The living law of perfect love!
Write the new precept on our hearts;
We shall not then from Thee remove,
Who in Thy glorious image shine,
Thy people, and for ever Thine!

5. How does He enforce this same commandment by reminding us of His own love? St. John xv. 12.

6. What blessings does Christ pronounce on His disciples? St. Matthew v. 3–12.

7. O happy Christian, who can boast
"The Son of God is mine"!
Happy, though humbled in the dust,
Rich in this gift divine.

He lives the life of heaven below,
And shall for ever live;
Eternal streams from Christ shall flow,
And endless vigor give.

LESSON XXVII.

THE FUTURE LIFE.

1. What message did Christ send to His disciples on the morning of His resurrection?

"Go to My brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God." St. John xx. 17.

2. What assurance does St. Paul give that all faithful disciples shall be with Christ in heaven? Colossians iii. 4

3. What words does He use to make our future life real to us? 2 Corinthians v. 1.

4. My heavenly home is bright and fair,
Nor pain nor death can enter there;
Its glittering towers the sun outshine:
That heavenly mansion may be mine.

5. To what may all true Christians look forward?

"An inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away." 1 Peter i. 4.

"We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter iii. 13.

6. With what words of welcome will the righteous be received by their Lord?

"Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." St. Matthew xxv. 34.

7 Jerusalem, my happy home!
Name ever dear to me!
When shall my labors have an end
In joy and peace and thee?

When shall these eyes thy heaven-built walls
And pearly gates behold?
Thy bulwarks with salvation strong,
And streets of shining gold?

Heaven is a place of rest from sin;
But all who hope to enter there
Must here that holy course begin,
Which shall their souls for rest prepare.

Clean hearts, O God! in us create;
Right spirits, Lord, in us renew;
Commence we now that higher state,
Now do Thy will as angels do.

In Jesus' footsteps may we tread,
Learn every lesson of His love;
And be from grace to glory led,
From heaven below to heaven above.

LESSON XXVIII.

THE HOLY SPIRIT.

1. What gift was bestowed upon the early disciples, in accordance with our Lord's promise to them?

"The disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Ghost." Acts xiii. 52.

"He was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith." Acts xi. 24.

2. How does Christ teach us that this gift is waiting for all who ask for it? St. Luke xi. 13.

3. Into what near relationship to God do we enter when we are obedient to His Holy Spirit? Romans viii. 14.

4. What help is promised to those who are thus obedient? Philippians ii. 13.

5. How are we reminded of the close union with God which the Christian may enjoy? 1 Corinthians iii. 16.

6. How does St. Paul describe the difference between those who are led by the Spirit, and those who care only for the things of this world? Romans viii. 5, 6.

7. How are we warned against resisting the influence of God's Spirit?

"Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God." Ephesians iv. 30.

"Quench not the Spirit." 1 Thess. v. 19.

8. By what fruit will the influence of the Spirit be shown in our lives?

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." Galatians v. 22, 23.

9. Our blest Redeemer, ere He breathed
His tender, last farewell,
A Guide, a Comforter, bequeathed.
With us to dwell.

He came sweet influence to impart, —
A gracious, willing Guest, —
While He can find one humble heart
Wherein to rest.

And His that gentle voice we hear,
Soft as the breath of even,
That checks each fault, that calms each fear,
And speaks of heaven.

And every virtue we possess,
And every victory won,
And every thought of holiness,
Are His alone.

Spirit of purity and grace,
Our weakness pitying see;
Oh, make our hearts Thy dwelling-place,
And worthier Thee!

Holy Spirit, Lord of light!
From Thy clear, celestial height,
Thy pure, beaming radiance give:
Come, Thou Father of the poor!
Come, with treasures which endure!
Come, Thou Light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,
Visiting the troubled breast,
Dost refreshing peace bestow;
Thou in toil art comfort sweet;
Pleasant coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, Light divine!
Visit Thou these hearts of Thine,
And our inmost being fill:
If Thou take Thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.

Thou, on those who evermore
Thee confess and Thee adore,
In thy sevenfold gifts descend:
Give them comfort when they die;
Give them life with Thee on high;
Give them joys which never end.

LESSON XXIX.

REGENERATION.

1. In what words does Christ teach us that those who would enter His kingdom must be filled with a new life? St. John iii. 3.

2. Thou must be born again:
Such was the solemn word
To him who came, not all in vain,
By night to seek his Lord.

3. If we have this new life within, how will all outward things change for us? 2 Corinthians v. 17.

4. How does St. Paul describe the brightness of the Christian's life? 1 Thessalonians v. 5.

5. How must they walk who have been brought into this light?

"Walk as children of light; and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Ephesians v. 8, 11.

6. Oh for a humble, trustful heart,
Believing, true, and clean!
Which neither life nor death can part
From Him that dwells within;

A heart in every thought renewed,
And full of love divine;
Perfect and right, and pure and good,
Conformed, O Lord! to Thine.

7. By what token do we know those who have been born into Christ's kingdom? 1 John iii. 14.

8. Repeat the Apostle Paul's exhortation to those who would be Christ's followers? Colossians iii. 1, 2.

9. I am free! I am free! I have broken away
From the chambers of night to the splendors of day;
All the phantoms that darkened around me are gone,
And a spirit of light is now leading me on.

Earth appeareth in garments of beauty new drest;
Brighter thoughts, brighter feelings, spring forth in my breast;
Happy voices are floating in music above,
All creation is full of the glory of love.

God of truth! it is Thou who hast shed down each ray
Of the sunshine that blesses and gladdens my way;
From the depths of my spirit, to Thee will I give
Ever-thankful affection as long as I live.

Create my nature pure within,
And form my soul averse to sin;
Let Thy good Spirit ne'er depart,
Nor hide Thy presence from my heart.

I cannot live without Thy light,
Cast out and banished from Thy sight;
Thy holy joys, my God, restore,
And guard me, that I fall no more.

A broken heart, my God, my King,
Is all the sacrifice I bring:
The God of grace will ne'er despise
A broken heart for sacrifice.

Oh, may Thy love inspire my tongue!
Salvation shall be all my song;
And all my powers shall join to bless
The Lord, my Strength and Righteousness

Part III.

TIMES AND SEASONS.

LESSON XXX.

CHRISTMAS.

1. What do we celebrate on Christmas Day?
The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Where did his birth take place?
"In Bethlehem of Judea." St. Matthew ii. 5.

3. To whom was this good news first announced? St. Luke ii. 8, 9.

4. What was the message of the angel? St. Luke ii. 10, 11, 12.

5. What glorious sight did the shepherds then see? St. Luke ii. 13, 14.

6. Why was the name Jesus given to the child?
"Thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins." St. Matthew i. 21.

7. What is the great blessing which Jesus brings to us? Acts iii. 26.

8. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good-will to men
From heaven's all-gracious King:"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

But with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
Oh! hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

Hark! the herald-angels sing:
"Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."

Joyful, all ye nations, rise!
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host, proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Mild, He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth;
Born to give them second birth.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and Life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.

Let us, then, with angels sing:
"Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."

LESSON XXXI.

CHRISTMAS.

1. What greater blessing did Christ bring to the world than had been given by all who went before Him? St. John i. 17.

2. What was the exclamation of John the Baptist when he saw Jesus coming to him?
"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!" St. John i. 29.

3. In what words of the prophet Isaiah does our Lord describe his own ministry? St. Luke iv. 18.

4. How does He speak of His work in answer to the messengers of John the Baptist? St. Matthew xi. 5.

5. What is God's greatest and best gift to us, for which we specially rejoice at this Christmas season? St. John iii. 16.

6. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King:
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
As far as sin is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love.

LESSON XXXII.

EASTER.

1. How did our Lord foretell His death and resurrection to His disciples?

"Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: and they shall kill Him, and the third day He shall be raised again." St. Matthew xvii. 22, 23.

2. When did the women come to the sepulchre to anoint the body of the Lord after His crucifixion?

"Very early in the morning, the first day of the week." St. Mark xvi. 2.

3. How had the stone been rolled away from the sepulchre where the body of Jesus had been laid? St. Matthew xxviii. 2, 3.

4. What did the angels say to the women who were perplexed at not finding the body of their Lord?

"Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen." St. Luke xxiv. 5, 6.

5. What great lesson does the Apostle Paul teach from the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Colossians iii. 1, 2.

6. Lift your glad voices in triumph on high,
For Jesus hath risen, and man cannot die.
Vain were the terrors that gathered around Him,
And short the dominion of death and the grave:
He burst from the fetters of darkness that bound Him,
Resplendent in glory, to live and to save.
Loud was the chorus of angels on high,—
The Saviour hath risen, and man cannot die.

Glory to God, in full anthems of joy;
The being He gave us, death cannot destroy·
Sad were the life we must part with to-morrow,
If tears were our birthright, and death were our end;
But Jesus hath cheered the dark valley of sorrow,
And bade us, immortal, to heaven ascend.
Lift, then, your voices in triumph on high;
For Jesus hath risen, and man cannot die.

Christ the Lord is risen to-day,
Sons of men and angels say:
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal:
Christ hath burst the gates of hell!
Death in vain forbids His rise:
Christ hath opened Paradise!

Lives again our glorious King:
Where, O Death, is now thy sting?
Once He died our souls to save:
Where thy victory, O Grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,
Following our exalted Head:
Made like Him, like Him we rise;
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Risen with Him, we upward move;
Still we seek the things above;
Heaven our aim, and loved abode,
Hid our life with Christ in God.

King of glory, Soul of bliss!
Everlasting life is this:
Thee to know, Thy power to prove,
Thus to sing, and thus to love.

LESSON XXXIII.

EASTER.

1. Who has made Easter Sunday a day of nope and rejoicing to all Christian people?

"Our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." 2 Timothy i. 10.

2. What assurance of eternal life does our Lord give to those who believe on Him?

"I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me, shall never die." St. John xi. 25, 26.

3. How does St. Paul rejoice in the victory gained for us over sin and death by Jesus Christ? 1 Corinthians xv. 55–57.

4. What does our Saviour reveal to us of our home with Him in heaven? St. John xiv. 2, 3.

5. What blessed freedom from sorrow and pain awaits us there?

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain." Revelation xxi. 4.

6. What joys beyond our power to conceive are prepared for those that love Christ?

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Corinthians ii. 9.

7 They stand, those halls of Sion,
All jubilant with song,
And bright with many an angel,
And all the martyr throng.

There grief is turned to pleasure;
Such pleasure, as below
No human voice can utter,
No human heart can know.

And He, whom now we trust in,
Shall then be seen and known;
And they who know and see Him
Shall have Him for their own.

Oh for the calm beyond the storms,
In the presence of the Lord,
Where with angels bright,
Both day and night,
We shall hear His sacred word!

Oh for the body free from pain,
The spirit free from sin,
Which He will give
To the souls that live,
Who shall dwell His courts within!

Oh for the joy no eye hath seen,
No human heart hath known!
For faint and low
Fall the echoes below
Of the songs around His throne.

But oh for grace to serve Him here,
To rest upon His love;
To walk with God
On our earthly road,
And to anchor our joys above!

Oh for a faith to see the Lord,
Through darkness and through tears;
To hear His voice,
And still to rejoice,
And watch till the day appears!

LESSON XXXIV.

THE NEW YEAR.

1. What solemn appeal does the New Year make to us?

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve." Joshua xxiv. 15.

2. What should be our resolution in answer to this appeal?

"The Lord our God will we serve, and His voice will we obey." Joshua xxiv. 24.

3. What words of Christ enforce this choice upon us?

"It is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." St. Matthew iv. 10.

4. May I resolve with all my heart,
With all my powers to serve the Lord;
Nor from His precepts e'er depart,
Whose service is a rich reward.

Be this the purpose of my soul,
My solemn, my determined choice,—
To yield to His supreme control,
And in His kind commands rejoice.

Oh! may I never faint nor tire,
Nor, wandering, leave His sacred ways:
Great God! accept my soul's desire,
And give me strength to live Thy praise.

5. In what words does our Lord teach us that we connot serve God unless we give Him our whole heart? St. Matthew vi. 24.

6. How does He exhort us to beware of the way of sin which leads to destruction? St. Matthew vii. 13, 14.

7. What should be our prayer for help to keep us in the straight and narrow way? Psalm xvii. 5.

8. What should we ask of God, in order that we may be able to live this Christian life? Psalm li. 10.

9. My God, accept my heart this day,
And make it always Thine;
That I from Thee no more may stray,
No more from Thee decline.

Let every thought and work and word
To Thee be ever given:
Then life shall be Thy service, Lord,
And death the gate of heaven!

Come, let us anew our journey pursue,
Roll round with the year,
And never stand still till the Master appear.

His adorable will let us gladly fulfil,
And our talents improve,
By the patience of hope, and the labor of love.

Oh that each, in the day of His coming, may say
"I have fought my way through:
I have finished the work Thou didst give me to do."

Oh that each from his Lord may receive the glad word,
"Well and faithfully done!
Enter into My joy, and sit down on My throne."

LESSON XXXV.

SPRING.

1. What thought does the return of spring bring fresh to our minds?

"The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord." Psalm xxxiii. 5.

2. How is the first creation of the trees and the flowers described in the book of Genesis?

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit-tree yielding fruit . . . and it was so . . . and God saw that it was good." Genesis i. 11, 12.

3. It was my heavenly Father's love
Brought every being forth;
He made the shining worlds above,
And every thing on earth.

Each lovely flower, the smallest fly,
The sea, the waterfall,
The bright green fields, the clear blue sky,—
'Tis God that made them all.

4. With what loving purpose does God each year put new life into the earth? Psalm civ. 14.

5. How does He prepare the ground to bring forth this new life?

"Thou makest it soft with showers: Thou blessest the springing thereof. Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness." Psalm lxv. 10, 11.

6. How do all the works of the Lord rejoice before Him?

"The little hills rejoice on every side. The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing." Psalm lxv. 12, 13.

7. What lesson does our Saviour teach us from God's care of the flowers of the field? St. Luke xii. 27, 28.

8. What was the joyful exclamation of the Psalmist at the thought of the wonderful works of the Lord? Psalm civ. 24.

9. How should we raise our hearts in gratitude to God as we think of all these mercies? Psalm cvii. 8.

10.

The spring-tide hour
Brings leaf and flower,
With songs of life and love;
And many a lay
Wears out the day
In many a leafy grove.

Now when Thy voice
Makes earth rejoice,
And the hills laugh and sing,
Lord, make my heart
To bear its part,
And join the praise of spring.

We plough the fields, and scatter
The good seed on the land;
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty Hand.
He sends the snow in winter,
The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine,
And soft refreshing rain.

He only is the Maker
Of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower,
He lights the evening star;
The winds and waves obey Him,
By Him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, His children,
He gives our daily bread.

We thank Thee, then, O Father!
For all things bright and good,
The seed-time and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food:
Accept the gifts we offer
For all Thy love imparts,
And what Thou most desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts.

LESSON XXXVI.

THANKSGIVING.

1. From whom do we receive all the blessings that make our lives bright and joyful? St. James i. 17.

2. How are we called upon to remember with a thankful heart all God's goodness to us?

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever." Psalm cxxxvi. 1.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within

me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." Psalm ciii. 1, 2.

3. Praise to Thee, Thou great Creator!
Praise to Thee from every tongue;
Join, my soul, with every creature,—
Join the universal song.
For ten thousand blessings given,
For the hope of future joy,
Sound His praise through earth and heaven,
Sound Jehovah's praise on high.

4. What should be the expression of our grateful feelings? Psalm cxlvi. 2.

5. How does the Psalmist remind us that the life of all creatures depends upon the constant care of the Lord? Psalm cxlv. 15, 16.

6. Let us, with a gladsome mind,
Praise the Lord, for He is kind;
For His mercies aye endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure

All His creatures He doth feed;
His full hand supplies their need;
For His mercies aye endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us, therefore, warble forth
His high majesty and worth;
For His mercies aye endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.

7. What blessing greater than these outward gifts demands our gratitude? Psalm lxiii. 3.

8. By what gift, precious beyond all others, has this loving-kindness been shown to us?

"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." St. John iii. 16.

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift!" 2 Corinthians ix. 32.

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